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4-H ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST
IN SUMTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Oct 4 1937

A radio discussion by T. O. Bowen, Assistant County Agricultural Agent, Sara Bragdon, 4-H Club girl, Sumter County, South Carolina, and J. R. White, Jr., Sumter County, S. C., broadcast Saturday, September 4, 1937, in the National 4-H Club radio hour by 84 stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company.

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BOWEN:

In South Carolina we are proud of 30,000 4-H boys and girls. Of course, we can't bring all of these fine young people to Washington to take part in this broadcast. But we have done the next best thing to that. We are presenting two club members. They represent all of these 30,000 young folks. They'll try to give you some idea of what 4-H club work is doing in South Carolina. I'm afraid some of you may get the idea I'm trying to make a speech, so I'm going to stop right here and present our 4-H representatives and ask them to tell you about some of their 4-H accomplishments. Come over here, Sara. Friends, I would like to introduce to you Miss Sara Bragdon, of Sumter County, South Carolina.

SARA:

Thank you, Mr. Bowen. Good afternoon to this radio audience! I'm thrilled to be here in our nation's capitol.

BOWEN:

All of us are mighty glad to be here. It's always a pleasure to come to Washington and still more of a pleasure to talk to the thousands of 4-H folks who listen to the NBC Farm and Home Hour---But here I'm talking again. I think I'd better introduce our South Carolina 4-H boy at this time. You know one of the slogans of our farm young folks is "Learn to do by doing." This is their program and we want them to take part in it as much as possible. Right now, I want you to meet J. R. White, Jr.

WHITE:

Thank you, Mr. Bowen. I'm glad to be with this radio audience today. Ever since Sara and I learned that we were going to broadcast from Washington, we have been looking forward to it. We are interested in our 4-H club work and are always glad to tell others about what we are doing and what we think of this fine organization.

BOWEN:

You know it's an old Southern custom that ladies come first, so now we ask Sara Bragdon to tell us something about her 4-H career. How long have you been in club work, Sara?

SARA:

I have been a 4-H club member for six years.

BOWEN:

Have you spent all that time in making good custards, putting up fruits for the winter months, and other 4-H household projects?

(over)

SARA:

Oh, no, sir; I've found time for other things. I enjoy taking part in the other activities which mean so much to the 4-H club members.

BOWEN:

Well, suppose you tell us what some of these other activities are.

SARA:

Oh, they include leaders' meetings, camps, recreational schools, and rural life conferences. Those are a few, Mr. Bowen.

BOWEN:

I think that'll be enough to give our friends an idea that 4-H club work isn't confined entirely to projects. But wait a minute, - I am asking you too many questions at one time. I'm going to let you rest a minute and ask J. R. a question. You've been quite active in leadership and other 4-H programs, haven't you, J. R.?

WHITE:

Oh, they give me credit for it. I do get a lot of kick out of my 4-H club demonstrations. That's the practical side of our work, as you know, and I also get a great deal of pleasure and training in these other accomplishments you and Sara have been talking about.

BOWEN:

J. R. doesn't care to boast about it, I know, but he's been president, vice-president, and secretary of his local club. At present, he is vice-president of our Sumter County Council. He was elected to this place by the officers of the 800 4-H boys and girls in our county. Have I missed any of your honors, J. R.?

WHITE:

I guess not, Mr. Bowen.

BOWEN:

Some of you listening in may get the idea we are spending too much time to-day discussing this leadership phase of 4-H club work. But, after all, rural people make up a large portion of the population of the United States. The farm boys and girls of today will have to shoulder a great part of the responsibility of this country tomorrow, so it is of vital importance that they learn not only good farm practice but how to play their part in carrying on the duties of citizenship in their communities.

SARA:

Mr. Bowen, I think I know what you mean. 4-H club work does help us in our canning, sewing, gardening, home improvements, cooking, and practical demonstrations, but it does more than that. It gives us a different outlook on life. I mean it teaches us to be willing to take on responsibilities in everything that concerns our home and community and it teaches us to be able to carry such responsibilities by working with other people.

WHITE:

The boys feel the same way, Sara. I've heard them talk about it in our own county and when I have gone to various camps and other meetings that are attended by club boys and girls throughout the State, I have heard them talk about the same things.

BOWEN:

While we are talking about the extra club activities let's give our radio friends some idea of our recreational work.

WHITE:

Oh boy, you are talking my language now, Mr. Bowen.

BOWEN:

When we talk about recreation, especially baseball, I know we are talking your language. I remember when you played first base in the 1937 American Legion elimination baseball game. I felt that you were upholding the 4-H club tradition of good sportsmanship and believe me you certainly showed enthusiasm enough.

SARA:

Now listen! I am not a baseball player, but, believe me, I get a lot of fun out of our 4-H girls recreation.

BOWEN:

I hope none of our listeners will get the impression that 4-H club work is all play. (Well, after all, there is some play in it.) But when you stop to think, in any well rounded program that is worthwhile there must be fun, physical work, and mental work. Let's talk about the work now. I'll ask our young South Carolinians some questions about their farm and home demonstrations. Now J. R., I am going to start on you first. What are some of your outstanding club demonstrations?

WHITE:

Well, I believe my swine and dairy projects are my best two demonstrations. Now don't misunderstand me, I don't spend all my time on these two projects. I grow feed for my livestock and I also grow some cotton for cash.

BOWEN:

What are some of the worthwhile things you get out of this project part of club work?

WHITE:

Well, off-hand I would say that it has taught me how to fit and show livestock, how to prepare my land, how to fertilize my crops, how to balance my feed for my livestock, and all those sorts of things. You know that the extension workers have been advising our parents and teaching us 4-H club members to grow feed for our livestock if we expect to get much money out of them.

BOWEN:

Yes, our farmers say they can't expect to make much profit out of livestock if they have to buy all the feed.

But Sara, it seems we're slighting you. Let's hear about your projects. (Don't go away from the microphone, J. R. I have some more questions to ask you in a minute). Sara, you look mighty pretty today in that new dress of yours -- well, it is no more than natural since you were coming to our capitol that you fixed up a bit. By the way, did you buy that dress ready made or did you make it?

SAR:

Buy it! Why, I seldom buy a dress. I make most of my clothes myself. I like sewing the best of my major projects, and I sew a good deal.

BOWEN:

Seems to me when I was in your community the other day I heard that you were making clothes for your younger sister before you leave for college. Is that right?

SARA:

Yes sir, that's true. I'm trying to catch up on all my sewing before I enter the freshman class at college this month.

BOWEN:

Sara won some clothing prizes at the fair last year. I can't remember what they were. Wonder if you'd mind telling us, Sara.

SARA:

Well, I didn't intend saying anything about that. But since you have asked me I will say I was fortunate in winning three first prizes, one second, and also a trophy for the best clothing exhibit.

WHITE:

I don't like to butt in, Mr. Bowen, but I think club members get a lot of good training by exhibiting their stuff at fairs.

BOWEN:

If they don't, there's a lot of time wasted on fair exhibits. Just what benefits do you think you've had from exhibiting your calves and pigs at fairs, J. R.?

WHITE:

Well, I already said I learned about showmanship. Besides that I have received some prizes and have learned some good lessons.

BOWEN:

From your experience as a 4-H exhibitor tell us what you consider the most important lesson you have learned.

WHITE:

Well I guess the most important lesson is when I go to fairs and see some of the fine purebred livestock the older farmers and 4-H club members are showing it encourages me to try to make my herd better.

BOWEN:

Which one of your herds are you talking about, your registered Guernsey cows or your Poland China hogs?

WHITE:

Both of them, sir. Club boys who are going to make a success of their demonstrations had just as well make up their minds to work and work hard. Livestock or any project for that matter, Mr. Bowen, won't amount to very much unless you stick to your job.

BOWEN:

Do you mean that this is absolutely your work or did your dad do it and you are getting the credit?

WHITE:

Of course my dad cooperates with me in this club work but every project that I carry on is absolutely mine.

BOWEN:

When you sell your crops and livestock do you actually get the money from these products?

WHITE:

Sure, I do. But out of it, I pay for the rent of the land and for the animals. I also pay all costs in connection with growing the demonstrations.

BOWEN:

Sara told us just a little while ago that she was going to college this fall. J. R., what are your plans?

WHITE:

When I was a little boy I wanted to be a doctor but after I learned what 4-H club work was all about I became interested in agriculture and decided that I was not cut out to be a doctor. In other words, Mr. Bowen, I found I wanted to be a farmer. I now plan to enter Clemson, South Carolina's Agricultural College, and take an Agricultural course.

BOWEN:

I see now why you're saving your money. I imagine you're planning to use it to help pay your way through college, eh?

WHITE:

Exactly right, Mr. Bowen.

SARA:

Mr. Bowen, with college days just ahead of me entering the freshman class is naturally on my mind and while you are talking about education, I would like to say a number of 4-H girls in South Carolina have saving accounts, too, and are planning to use them to help pay their way through college.

WHITE:

Yes, Sara, and I bet you your bottom dollar you are one of those club girls.

SARA:

I don't know but that I am.

BOWEN:

Sara, we've been talking about 4-H club work from a personal viewpoint. You say you have been a club member over six years? What have you noticed about the way people in South Carolina feel toward club work.

SARA:

Well --ll-----During the six years I have been a club member I have noticed that the general public has come to be more and more interested in our work. For instance, you remember the business men who called your office just before the annual encampment and offered financial assistance to those boys and girls who were unable to pay their own way.

WHITE:

And what about business men and their service clubs all over the State who have helped club boys and girls in one way or another? They are surely interested in our work.

SARA:

Yes, J. R., it is a real pleasure to do club work in a county where the citizens back you as they do in ours. I'm sure I'm speaking for the rest of the boys and girls throughout the State whose business neighbors also help them.

BOWEN:

Ladies and gentlemen, our purpose today has been to give you a general idea of 4-H club work and what it means not only to our 30,000 members in South Carolina but also to all the people of the State. It is utterly impossible to go into every detail concerning so large an organization. But before we finish our part in this broadcast, let me express the thanks that are due the parents and the 4-H club leaders. By leaders, I mean adults and older club members who aid the extension workers in directing the destinies of rural youth. They are giving unselfish service of the highest type. In parting, the Extension Service of South Carolina and our 4-H club members wish to thank the National Broadcasting Company and associated stations for this opportunity to give you a bird's-eye view of 4-H club work in our State. And now, goodbye, farm friends, and the best of luck to all our listeners.

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